

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W

----- 057256

R 311823Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6015

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 17159

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, GW

SUBJECT: FRG REACTION TO GISCARD'S PROPOSAL FOR
PRODUCER/CONSUMER ENERGY CONFERENCE

REF: A. BONN 16887; B. PARIS 25419

1. DURING A CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF ON SEPARATE
SUBJECTS, A GERMAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL BRIEFED US
ON THE FRG'S POSITION ON FRENCH PRESIDENT GISCARD'S
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PROPOSED PRODUCER/CONSUMER ENERGY CONFERENCE. THE

BASIC ELEMENTS OF THIS POSITION ARE AS FOLLOWS:

A. THE FRG HAS EMPHASIZED AS EARLY AS THE WASHINGTON ENERGY CONFERENCE THE NEED FOR A FRUITFUL DIALOGUE BETWEEN PRODUCERS, CONSUMERS AND MSAS BASED ON COOPERATION RATHER THAN CONFRONTATION;

B. THE GERMAN RESPONSE, IN PRINCIPLE, THEREFORE, TO THE FRENCH PROPOSAL FOR A CONFERENCE OF THESE THREE GROUPS IS GENERALLY POSITIVE;

C. BOTH A PRODUCER/CONSUMER CONFERENCE AS WELL AS THE PROPOSED PREPARATORY MEETING REQUIRE, HOWEVER, EXTREMELY THOROUGH PREPARATION ON THE PART OF ALL PARTICIPANTS;

D. THE FRG WOULD WELCOME THE DEVELOPMENT OF A COMMON POSITION AMONG ALL EC MEMBER COUNTRIES PRIOR TO THE PREPARATORY MEETING WHICH WOULD MAKE POSSIBLE A UNIFIED STAND ON BEHALF OF THE COMMUNITY;

E. THE DESIRE FOR A COMMON EC POSITION CANNOT EXCLUDE THE POSSIBILITY HOWEVER THAT MEMBER COUNTRIES MAY EXPRESS THEIR INDIVIDUAL VIEWPOINTS ON ISSUES WHERE A COMMON POSITION IS NOT ACHIEVABLE AND;

F. A PREPARATORY MEETING SHOULD TAKE PLACE ONLY AFTER THE FORTHCOMING EC SUMMIT CONFERENCE.

2. ACCORDING TO OUR SOURCE THIS POSITION WAS PREPARED BY THE ECONOMICS MINISTRY AND CLEARED ONLY AFTER SOME DIFFICULTY WITH THE CHANCELLORY AND FOREIGN MINISTRY. THE GERMAN REP FOLLOWED THIS POSITION DURING THE DISCUSSION OF THE FRENCH PROPOSAL AT THE OCTOBER 28 MEETING OF THE EC PERMREPS AND HE IS TO FOLLOW THIS SAME GUIDANCE DURING THE

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ACTION SS-25

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R 311823Z OCT 74
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
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AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
USINT ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
USMISSION OECD PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 17159

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FORTHCOMING MEETINGS OF THE EC ENERGY COMMITTEE.
THE FRG HAS ALSO TAKEN STEPS TO COORDINATE THIS
POSITION WITH OTHER EC COUNTRIES AND TO THIS END
CONVERSATIONS HAVE ALREADY BEEN HELD WITH THE UK,
DENMARK, THE NETHERLANDS AND BELGIUM.

3. FROM AN ENERGY POLICY POINT OF VIEW THE FRG AIMS AT
TWO PRINCIPAL OBJECTIVES IN REACTING TO THE FRENCH
PROPOSAL: THE CONSUMER/PRODUCER DIALOGUE SHOULD BE
EFFECTIVE AND THE EC (AND OPTIMALLY ALSO FRANCE)
SHOULD JOIN THE IEP. THESE OBJECTIVES ARE COMPLICATED
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BY THE DESIRE OF THE CHANCELLORY AND FOREIGN MINISTRY
FOR A SUCCESSFUL EC SUMMIT CONFERENCE AND THEIR
BELIEF THAT THE SUBJECT OF ENERGY OFFERS ONE OF THE
BEST POSSIBILITIES FOR SUCCESS AT THE SUMMIT.

4. AS REGARDS THE FIRST OBJECTIVE THE FRG BELIEVES
THAT CAREFUL PREPARATION OF THE CONFERENCE IS
NECESSARY AND WILL SEEK TO ENSURE THAT GISCARD'S
PROPOSAL IS GIVEN VERY CAREFUL AND DELIBERATE
CONSIDERATION IN BOTH THE EC AND IEP. ONE ELEMENT IN
THE FRG STRATEGY IS TO AVOID A SITUATION WHERE THE

FRENCH MAY PLACE ADDITIONAL PRESSURE ON OTHER MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY BY MAKING A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT THAT THE SAUDIS, IRANIANS AND OTHER PRODUCERS AND MSAS HAVE ACCEPTED THE CALL FOR A CONFERENCE WHILE NOTING AT THE SAME TIME THAT CERTAIN MAJOR CONSUMING COUNTRIES HAVE RESERVATIONS ABOUT THE CONFERENCE. WITH REGARD TO THE SECOND OBJECTIVE, THE CURRENT STRATEGY IS FOR THE OTHER 8 MEMBERS TO SUGGEST AT THE NOVEMBER 12 COUNCIL OF FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING THAT THE EC AS AN INSTITUTION JOIN THE IEP. IF THE FRENCH BLOCK THIS SUGGESTION THE FRG WILL PURSUE THIS OBJECTIVE AT THE SUMMIT.

5. EMBASSY COMMENT. THE ACTIVE GERMAN ROLE IN SEEKING THE COORDINATED POSITION AMONG THE OTHER EC MEMBERS FOR A CALM AND DELIBERATE REVIEW OF GISCARD'S PROPOSAL IMPLIES THAT THERE MAY WELL BE SOME SLIPPAGE IN THE TIMETABLE AS ENVISAGED BY THE FRENCH.
HILLENBRAND

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